irrigation tanks and channels, paddy lands in many parts in Central and North Travancore had become unproductive. It was necessary that steps should be taken to have such channels and tanks repaired without delay.

There were also extensive areas of swampy lands included in Reserves and Government *porambokes*, which could be easily brought under wet cultivation. Such lands should be thrown open for cultivation.

He next spoke about the following public works :—

i. The bridge at Perumpidi on the road branching from the Tiruvalla-Kozhencherri road to Mallapalli was removed by the P. W. D. 13 years ago. It should be replaced without delay.

ii. The Cherukolpuzha-Poovanakadavu road was a sanctioned work and should be taken in hand and completed as early as possible.

iii. The culverts and bridges on the Tiruvalla-Mavelikara road also required early completion.

In conclusion, the Member made the following suggestions :—

i. A Taluk Board should be created in each taluk with the Tahsildar as its President, to enquire into the needs of each taluk and suggest the measures to be adopted by the Government and the people.

ii. A survey of the State should be conducted to find out the lands which were once under cultivation but had subsequently become unproductive and abandoned and to devise means to bring them under cultivation again.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

131. Certain changes to be effected in the general administration of the State.

Mr. M. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Karunagappalli taluk) expressed the gratitude of the people to the Dewan for the improvement effected in the finances of the State during the last five years and said that Government were in a better position now to devote more attention towards improving the means of communication in the several taluks.

He then suggested the formation of an Executive Council, composed of the prominent officers of the State, to advise the Dewan in matters of administration.

Next, he pleaded for the grant of greater privileges to the people so as to enable them to take part in the administration. Referring to the proposed expansion of the Legislative Council, he suggested that the Council should have a majority of non-official members and be invested with the power to discuss the budget, move resolutions and interpellate Government on administrative questions. Agriculture, trade and industry should each have a member to represent its interests. It was also necessary that the S. M. P. Assembly should be placed on a statutory basis.

At every session of the Assembly the representatives of the several taluks were pressing the necessity of improving and extending the means of communication and other public works in the various parts of the State. It was not possible to comply with all the requests. He understood that Government were, therefore, contemplating the formation of District and Taluk Boards and made the following suggestions for consideration in that connection :—

(1) The Presidents of such Boards should be non-official gentlemen.

(2) Government should assist them with liberal grants.

(3) The Boards should have control over not only means of communication, but also agriculture and sanitation.

In order to improve the economic condition of the State, the Member urged the formation of a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials. Landed properties were alone subjected to taxation at present. That was hard. Other sources also should

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be tapped. To promote agriculture he advocated the appointment of an Agricultural Engineer to conduct an irrigation survey and also the opening of Agricultural Banks in important centres and a Savings Bank in each village. Officers on circuit except those of the Education Department should be asked to come in closer contact with the people and ascertain their needs and grievances.

In regard to Vernacular education the Member was of opinion that boys and girls could be taught together up to the 4th class. To avoid unnecessary delay in correspondence, the Deputy Director of Public Instruction should be authorised to correspond direct with Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

132. Desirability of allowing the people a real voice in important administrative measures.

Mr. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) spoke at length about the desirability of associating the people in a greater degree with the Government in the administration of the country and made the following suggestions:—

1. The expansion of the Legislative Council by increasing the number of non-official members so as to give them a majority, by providing for direct election of representatives on a broader franchise, and by giving the members of the Council the power of asking questions and supplementary questions regarding the general administration, of moving resolutions on matters of public interest and of discussing the budget.

2. The re-organisation of the Popular Assembly on a more responsible and useful basis.

3. The creation of Village, Taluk and District Boards.

4. The appointment of a Committee to undertake an economic survey of the country and to suggest measures to improve the economic condition of the people.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

133. Need for giving the representatives of the people a sufficient degree of control over Government affairs.

The Rev. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) dwelt upon the necessity of allowing the representatives of the people a greater voice in the administration of the affairs of the State and suggested the following reforms. It was necessary that the qualifying minimum tax for voters electing Members to the Popular Assembly should be reduced from Rs. 50, at least in the case of Christians and other communities among whom partition is in vogue to Rs. 5 or Rs.10, the Pulayas and Parayas being exempted from property qualification. The Members of the Assembly should be given the power to discuss the budget, frame Bills, interpellate Government on administrative questions and bring to the notice of Government the conduct of erring officers. If the powers described above could not be conferred on the Members of the Assembly at present, the Members of the Legislative Council might be given those powers for the time being.

He then touched upon the necessity of establishing at least Taluk Boards at once, if not Village and District Boards also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

134. Suggestions regarding the general administration of the State.

Mr. Thariathu Kunjithommen (Member, Muvattupuzha taluk) submitted that his chief complaint was that sufficient attention was not being paid to satisfy the ordinary conveniences and comforts of the people in the interior rural parts of the State. There was no doubt that the constant tours undertaken by the Dewan served to give him a knowledge of some of their wants and grievances in the villages and much relief was also being given by him as a result of his tours. But a good deal remained to be done. It did not seem to be as well and effectively recognised as it ought to be that the major portion of the State revenue was contributed by the

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